PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE of the

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Public Works and Transportation Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Tuesday, **January 20, 2004.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Peter O'Leary- Chairman

Legislator Dan Losquadro - Vice-Chairman

Legislator Angie Carpenter

Legislator Andrew Crecca

Legislator Brian Foley

Legislator Bill Lindsay

Legislator Ricardo Montano

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mea Knapp - Counsel to the Legislature

Charles Bartha - Commissioner - DPW

Rich LaValle - DPW

Kevin Duffy - Budget Review

Ilona Julius - Deputy Clerk

Maria Ammirati - Aide to Leg. O'Leary

Tim Motz - County Exec's Office

Leslie Mitchel - DPW

Bill Faulk - Aide to P.O. Caracappa

All Other Interested Parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 3:10 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Okay. Can I have your attention, please. We're going to call the meeting of the Public Works and Transportation Committee to order. And we'll ask a previous Chair of this Committee to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, Legislator Brian Foley.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Thank you. And welcome to the first meeting of Public Works and Transportation Committee. Is there any presentations to be made, any cards filled out? No? Okay. I would ask then Commissioner Bartha and his staff come up for the purposes of giving us opening remarks for the new calender year with respect to Public Works and Transportation.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Mr. Chairman, before they start, I'm just noticing on the agenda the first four resolutions have me as the sponsor. According to Rule 3F-13 of the Legislature, that actually should be the Presiding Officer, not the Deputy Presiding Officer.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

So we'll have to change -- what resolution are you talking about, 1006, 1007?

LEG. CARPENTER:

Six, seven, eight and nine.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Let the record reflect that IRs 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009 are not sponsored by Legislator

Carpenter, but rather the Presiding Officer. Welcome, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Hello. Thank you. We stand anxiously looking forward to working with the new Public Works Committee for this year. And we will continue to provide the information we have in the past unless there is a request to the contrary, and that information being the monthly status report of all of our projects that we provide to the Executive's Office, which is largely in a narrative fashion. We provide you with a copy of that.

Over the last year, we developed a very specific Capital Program Report, which gives the status of the award of construction, status of design, percentage of completion in order that you can be apprised of that work either on schedule or behind schedule. And this can be separated by Legislative District as well as by number, capital project number.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

I believe that you have already done that, have you not? We received an extensive e-mail in our offices concerning that particular format.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

That's correct.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Is that going to be on a regular basis, on a quarterly basis, semi-annual?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

In the past that's been requested on a quarterly basis, and we stand ready to provide it on a quarterly basis.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Without objection from the committee, I would think that that would be the way to go, to continue on a quarterly basis. However, there is a point I wanted to make with respect to the monthly simply that you have given to us in the past, will you continue doing that -- there's a request on the part of the Chair to do that -- to do so. And copies will be forwarded to all of the members of the committee as well.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Yes. We will do that, yes.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Okay. Are there any questions on the part of any member of the committee with respect to specific projects in their district? Yes. Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that this time of year the department is putting together both the road construction or reconstruction, repavement projects, if you are not prepared today, gentlemen, in the near future that would be helpful to see that.

Secondly, this is the time of year where you're putting together your dredge projects for the spring and that very narrow environmental window that's opened during the springtime period. So again, if not today, if you can get back to this Legislator and others who have waterways in need of dredging.

Over the wintertime I had spoken with Leslie Mitchel -- and it's good to see Leslie back at the committee meetings -- about Abbott's Creek, which has not been done in a number of years, and the request has been put in by my constituents about the interface area there. So that was going to be looked into as of December. Just to make sure that we have all the necessary permits and whatever.

Mr. Chairman, whatever capital or dollars need to be allocated, February is the time when we can allocate the operating dollars unless you're prepared to do something as a late starter this coming Tuesday, because I know that this in the past has been a timing problem between the permits that have been granted by the DEC and times when we have allocated the monies. Through so the Chair, is there -- can you give us an update on where you stand with dredge projects?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

We can't give you an actual schedule at this point, but we will in the next couple of days to the Chairman and to yourself.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

With respect to that particular issue, I think my office queried as to the Smith Point Park dredging, that just was recently initiated?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

That project they're mobilizing and the work will be under way.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

As we have previously discussed in the past, there was a concern on the part of some of us that the pavilion and the memorial were in jeopardy if we got a big bad storm. So hopefully -- I mean, we understand that this is a temporary fix, but it's something that had to be done in the event that we did have something in the near future by way of a nor'easter or a storm. So it's my understanding that project has already commenced, correct?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

That's correct. The work will be accomplished this winter. And the dredge is up here and is supposed to be in place right now actually.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Okay. Thank you. Anything else from any Legislators? Legislator Losquadro, then Legislator Foley.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

While we're on the topic of dredging, do you know if the Town of Brookhaven has inquired yet as to the dredging of Mount Sinai Harbor?

CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAVALLE:

Yes, but we're not aware of any particular problems there. If there are any particular problems, we should be made aware of that. The only -- there's one location in the harbor that usually soaks up, and that's on the inside or the east side, there's a little spit that keeps growing out of that which can be done by land. But the last time we checked, I wasn't aware that was a problem.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

No current problems?

CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAVALLE:

Not that we're aware of. If you have any information, we'll certainly follow up on that.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

No. I know that is an ongoing project, so. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Middle of the fall, October, November in the Parks Department, Parks Committee, as well as this committee, we had discussed the concern about the encroachment of the Montauk Airport on to the surrounding Montauk County Park. And the department was going to work -- this department was going to work cooperatively with the Parks Department to undertake a survey to be completed no later than this month, January, to find out, you know, unequivocally, one way or the other, let the chips fall where they may as to whether or not there is any encroachment that has occurred, number one, by the runway itself.

And number two, if no encroachment by the paved runway, then the other issue was whether or not part of the land, County Parkland, was cleared by the airport operators. And this month we were going to get some kind of -- not some kind -- we were going to get some definitive answer to that.

CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAVALLE:

We just recently retained a surveyor to do that work. I don't anticipate having any information for at least another month on that.

LEG. FOLEY:

Is it difficult -- just through the Chair, just one or two more questions. Is it difficult to do that kind of work when there's snow and ice on the ground?

CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAVALLE:

Yes. At this point in time, yes.

LEG. FOLEY:

So you are looking -- in other words, you are looking for after the winter break to undertake that survey.

CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAVALLE:

No. If we have a break and everything melts, we certainly can get in there to do that work. We're not going to wait until spring. We'll do it as soon as we can.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Okay. Anything else from any other Legislators on the committee? All right. There's been a request on the part of the Commissioner to take out of order Resolution 1016 sponsored by Legislators Alden and Lindsay. There's a motion to take out of order 1016.

LEG. FOLEY:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Motion by Legislator Foley, seconded by Legislator Lindsay. On the question of that motion, all in favor? Opposed? Abstain? Motion passes.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

IR 1016-04. Renaming Ronkonkoma portion of Motor Parkway as "Lieutenant John P. Napolitano Parkway." (ALDEN)

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Before us is 1016. I'll defer to Legislator Lindsay who is a cosponsor of this for purposes of an explanation.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah. Lieutenant John Napolitano died in the collapse of the World Trade Center. He was a New York City Fireman as well as a Fireman of Lakeland Fire Department. And we certainly think that the honor of renaming that roadway in the district that he served so well is appropriate.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

I couldn't agree more. There's a motion by Legislator Lindsay, seconded by Legislator Foley to approve 1016. On the question of that motion, all in favor? Opposed? Motion passes. **APPROVED (VOTE:7-0-0-0)**.

Thank you very much, gentlemen.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Are there any other presentations? Nothing? Okay. We'll move to the agenda. We have some Introductory Resolutions.

IR 1006-04. Authorizing public hearing for authorization of approval of ferry license for fire Island Water Taxi, Inc. LLC.

(PRESIDING OFFICER)

LEG. CARPENTER:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Motion by Legislator Carpenter, seconded by Legislator Losquadro. On the question of the

motion? This is for the purposes of approving a public hearing. I would imagine the hearing is on the 27th; is that correct, Counsel?

MS. KNAPP:

It should be on the 27th.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

On the question of that motion, all in favor? Opposed? Abstain? Motion passes.

MS. KNAPP:

I'm sorry, it's February 24.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

February 24th is the hearing?

MS. KNAPP:

Yes, it is.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Why is that? Why is it February and not January?

MS. KNAPP:

I'm not sure.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Because there has already been a delay. This should have taken place -- in fact, I see that the gentleman from the ferry company is here, and I would defer to the Chairman of the Committee, but perhaps we could ask him to come forward.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Mr. Hafele.

LEG. CRECCA:

If I can also just as a point of order in the interm, the times of the public hearings are set by the full Legislature at the Legislative meeting anyway. So I would say that at this point we can't determine that until the P.O. Office's has placed it on the agenda and it comes to a vote.

MS. KNAPP:

I'll try to check on this.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

There is a motion to authorize a public hearing by the full body with respect to approval of the ferry license for Fire Island Water Taxi. Mr. Hafele, do you have any comments for the committee at this point?

MR. HAFELE:

Nothing other than we would like to see this go forward as quickly as possible.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Come up please for the purpose of putting it on the record.

MR. HAFELE:

My name is George Hafele. I'm the President of Fire Island Ferries in Bay Shore and I also am the President of Fire Island Water Taxis in Bay Shore. The authorization of the public hearing for Fire Island Water Taxi, obviously we would like to see this moved forward as quickly as we can as the -- it may not seem like it now, but the summer season will rapidly approach. The sale of South Bay Water Taxi to Fire Island Water Taxi is predicated on this body granting a license to Fire Island Water Taxi. Therefore, in order for the sale to take place, the license has to be in place. So I would ask that we move forward as quickly as possible. I don't know what the hold up is on this in terms of the January 27th meeting.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Is there any reason why -- to the committee's knowledge, why we can't put on the agenda for the General Meeting on January 27th?

LEG. CARPENTER:

If I could just say something, this would have to be advertised. Do you know what the window is? Ilona, perhaps you --

MR. HAFELE:

The public hearing has been advertised as January 27th.

LEG. CRECCA:

We may have already set it.

LEG. CARPENTER:

There we go.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

All right. Well, shouldn't Counsel know that?

LEG. CRECCA:

Counsel is checking on that. Can we pass over this?

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Why don't we move on while we're waiting on that. Let's go to 1007.

IR 1007. Approving ferry license for Fire Island Water Taxi, LLC. (PRESIDING OFFICER)

LEG. CARPENTER:

So that would be a motion to table anyway, because that has to be pending the public hearing.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Motion to table by Legislator Carpenter, seconded by Legislator Crecca. On the question of the motion, all in favor? Opposed? Abstain? Motion is **TABLED.** (**VOTE:7-0-0-0**)

IR 1008. Authorizing public hearing for approval rates for Fire Island Water Taxi, LLC. (PRESIDING OFFICER)

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Let's go to 1008-04. This is similar to 1006. Has the date been set for the public hearing?

MS. KNAPP:

If you look at -- the resolution is one just approving the public hearing, which means it won't be voted on until the 27th. This presumes that it will be approved on the 27th and then the first

date that you could hold the public hearing is the 24th. That's how it happened.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Okay. Then in answer to our question, then 1006 and 1008 will be addressed by the full body on the 27th for the purposes of scheduling public hearings on the 24th on both these issues.

LEG. CARPENTER:

And then Legislator Crecca and I were just speaking, he made a good point. The public hearing, and this may be one of the examples of when a public hearing may actually be better to have in a committee rather than before the full body, because then we would be able to do it a little quicker.

MS. KNAPP:

The only thing is this was -- this was done before the rules were actually approved on the 16th, so I think that may be the reason.

LEG. CRECCA:

Right, but I don't think that we're bound by doing it on the 24th. I think we could, if we wanted to, schedule this public hearing for February 10th, which is the next meeting of this Public Works Committee. It certainly allows enough time for -- we don't set that now anyway. It will be done at the General Meeting, but it certainly allows enough time for publication and it also might be appropriate.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Yes. Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Did I hear though that we advertised the hearing for January 27th?

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

I think that's what Mr. Hafele just stated, there's advertisement that there is public hearing on

the 27th, sir?

MR. HAFELE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Through the Clerk's Office.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

By what authorization was that --

MR. HAFELE:

Through the Clerk's Office. I posted it. It's been -- this Thursday will be the third week, it will complete its three week run in local newspapers. Now again, with the rule change coming after December 31st, my question would be that should somebody who reads in the paper that there is a public hearing, should they wish to come and discuss it provided they are afforded that opportunity?

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Well, the public hearings are held -- are scheduled at 2:30 in the afternoon, perhaps you are referring to the public portion in the morning to come and discuss the matter.

MR. HAFELE:

Actually, the way that the -- the way it's been published as advertising the public hearing, it's at 2:30 in the afternoon according to what --

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

All right. Well, obviously there is a bone of contention here as to when we're going to have this public hearing. Is it going to be on the 27th? Is it going to be on the 10th? Or is it going to be on the 24th?

MR. HAFELE:

Well, it looks to me like it's going to be on the 24th, but -- and that's, you know, if that's what we have -- if that's what I have to live with, that's certainly what I'll live with. My question is -- my problem is that people are coming -- there are people coming to speak and they are coming from parts unknown, would they be able to speak at 2:30 at the hearing on the 27th?

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Legislator Crecca.

LEG. CRECCA:

On that matter, I would ask Counsel to investigate this between now and next week, but if it has been properly published for the 27th, it would seem to me we could move -- we could approve this now. On that day, we can take out of order and approve it in the morning to set the public hearing that afternoon. As long as we have met the publication requirements, the notice requirements for the public hearing, it would seem to serve everyone's best interest, including the public's by actually conducting the hearing that afternoon given that it was properly advertised. And I'd ask Counsel between now and next Tuesday morning to report back to the Public Works Chairman, Legislator O'Leary, as to whether that is feasible. And certainly if that's the Chairman's pleasure and the local Legislator's pleasure, then I would recommend we do that.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

That's possible to do, Counsel?

MS. KNAPP:

You want to have the public hearing then on the 27th of January at 2:30.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yes.

MS. KNAPP:

I have just asked Ilona Julius to double check with the Clerk to find out, you know, why.

LEG. CRECCA:

Obviously report back to the Chairman, and I'm sure he will report back to us individually as members of the committee.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

With respect to 1006 and 1008.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

There's a motion to approve by Legislator Carpenter, seconded by Legislator Crecca. On the question of the motion, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstain? Motion passes. **APPROVED.** (VOTE:7-0-0-0)

MR. HAFELE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

IR 1009-04. Approving rates established for Fire Island Water Taxi, LLC. (PRESIDING OFFICER)

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

1007 has been tabled as well as the rates. 1009, motion to table by myself, seconded by Legislator Carpenter. On the question of the motion, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstain. Motion passes. **TABLED (VOTE:7-0-0-0)**.

IR 1014-04. Approving Cross Bay Ferry license for the Fire Island Ferries, Inc. (PRESIDING OFFICER)

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Motion.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Second. This was -- we did have the public hearing for this in December, so, yes, motion and second to approve.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Motion by myself, seconded by Legislator Carpenter. On the question of that motion, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstain. Motion passes. **APPROVED. (VOTE:7-0-0-0)**.

IR 1015-04. Approving lateral ferry license for Fire Island Ferries, Inc. (PRESIDING OFFICER)

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

1015, motion by myself, seconded by Legislator Carpenter. On the question of the motion, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstain. Motion passes. **APPROVED. (VOTE:7-0-0-0)**

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

I'm assuming there has been public hearings with respect to all these resolutions.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yes, they were.

IR 1023-04. Authorization of alteration of rates for South Ferry, Inc. (PRESIDING OFFICER)

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

We've already addressed 1016. 1023, I'm going to make a motion to table.

LEG. CRECCA:

Second.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Seconded by Legislator Crecca. On the question of the motion, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstain? Motion passes.

TABLED. (VOTE:7-0-0-0)

IR 1024-04. Approving water ferry taxi license for At The Port, inc. (PRESIDING OFFICER)

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

1024, is there any representative from At The Port here?

LEG. CRECCA:

Motion to table. I'm sorry, withdrawn.

LEG. FOLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I'd make a motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

There's a motion to approve by Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Just need a second before we can discuss it.

LEG. CRECCA:

Second for the purposes --

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

On the question of the motion --

MR. DUFFY:

It should be tabled, because the public hearing hasn't been closed.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Right. It was recessed.

MR. DUFFY:

The hearing, I believe, is scheduled for the 27th.

LEG. FOLEY:

Very good. Motion then -- change the motion, Mr. Chairman, to recess pending the closing of the public hearing.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

There's a motion by Legislator Foley, seconded by Legislator Lindsay to table 1023 pending the conclusion of the public hearing.

LEG. FOLEY:

Just before we vote, Mr. Chairman, I would just -- I would just ask, Mr. Duffy, all the paper

work, all the documentation that's required of the applicant has been forwarded to your office?

MR. DUFFY:

At The Port, the application was completed on January 13th, so we have 45 days from that date in which to do our report.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay.

MR. DUFFY:

It should be a pretty straight forward application.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

I stand corrected, it's 1024 not 1023. On the motion to table 1024 by Legislator Foley, seconded by Legislator Lindsay, on the question? There being none, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstain. Motion passes. It's **TABLED.** (**VOTE:7-0-0-0**).

IR 1025-04. Authorization of rates for At The Port Inc., for Cross Bay and along lateral license, Patchogue River and Bay license, all within the County of Suffolk. (PRESIDING OFFICER)

LEG. FOLEY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Motion to table by Legislator Foley, seconded by Legislator Lindsay. On the question, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstain? Motion passes. **TABLED (VOTE:7-0-0-0)**

IR 1030-04. Reappointing members to the Suffolk County Transportation Advisory Board. (FOLEY)

LEG. FOLEY:

Motion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Motion by Legislator Foley, seconded by myself. This would address the situation within the Suffolk County Transportation Advisory Board where they authorized 14 members, there's currently ten. This would appoint four individuals --

LEG. FOLEY:

This would reappoint -- if I may, Mr. Chairman. This would reappoint -- there are staggered terms, so we appointed members last year. These are one year terms. The one year ended at the end of '03. So now they can serve the full three year terms. So it will be staggered. So every year there will be different candidate, if you will, up for reappointment. We have with us today Mr. Vince Taldone, who's the Chair of the TAB, and they are ready to have their first full fledged meeting the first week of February. These four reappointments have a fine background in their given professional field and would lend a lot of heft, if you will, and --

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Heft is important.

LEG. FOLEY:

It would lend a lot -- a lot of professional help to this particular advisory board.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Okay. There's a motion by Legislator Foley, second by myself --

LEG. CRECCA:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

-- to approve 1030. On the motion, Legislator Crecca.

LEG. CRECCA:

To the sponsor, through the Chair, with regard to -- I'm not familiar with any of these individual people per se.

LEG. FOLEY:

They came before us last September.

LEG. CRECCA:

They did. I guess I should be familiar, because I was on this committee. Mr. Folice.

LEG. FOLEY:

Jack Folice.

LEG. CRECCA:

Obviously, I'm really familiar with them. Since he's representing my town, I just wanted to know how were these -- were these Legislative appointments, Legislator Foley?

LEG. FOLEY:

These were Legislative appointments pursuant to a resolution we approved in '02 that created the board, and then '03 we appointed the members. Jack Folice was the immediate Assistant Director of Planning in Nassau County for a good number of years. He also works with Lee Koppleman in Suffolk County undergoing -- undertaking a number of planning studies for a variety of municipalities. His specialty within the planning field is transportation. He was the past Chair of County Executive Gaffney's Executive Legislative Task Force on Transportation about a year and a half ago.

LEG. CRECCA:

I've been sold. I trust you good judgement, Legislator Foley, and I appreciate your indulgence.

CHAIRMAN O'LEARY:

Okay. We'll move the motion. Before we move the motion, I think for the record, we should put the names of the four individuals on. Scott Carlin, Michael Klein, K-l-e-i-n, Jack Folice and Judy Record. Moving the motion, on the question? There being none, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstain? Motion passes. **APPROVED. (VOTE:7-0-0-0)**

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you.

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Any other business to be brought before the Public Works and Transportation Committee before we adjourn? Hearing none, we stand adjourned. Thank you.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:35 P.M*)

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